



Wrestling USA

1999 Sportswriter of the Year
Mike Carnes - Daily News, Norfolk, Nebraska

Editor's Note: The criteria for Sportswriter of the Year includes depth of coverage, photo accompaniment, human interest stories, and other factors. Depth of coverage requires that the writer go beyond the simple reporting of results and is able to capture the essence and personality of the sport of wrestling. This is sometimes a difficult task in a media world that places so much emphasis on the high profile sports of football and basketball. It is also a challenge to find the time it takes to write good local sports stories when many newspapers, due to economic considerations, are increasingly dependent upon wire services to provide material. *Wrestling USA Magazine* salutes these writers for their dedication and contributions to our great sport! - Cal Johnson

As usual, it is unfortunate that we cannot print sample articles written by the Sportswriter of the Year. Our readers will just have to take our word that MIKE CARNES of the Norfolk (NE) *Daily News* meets the criteria in the "Editor's Note".

Carnes, who joined the *Daily News* staff as assistant sports editor in 1996, also hosts a sports talk show on station WJAG/KEXL. Since Carnes' arrival in Norfolk, the *Daily News* has expanded its coverage of wrestling to include weekly

features on area wrestlers, coaches and teams; coverage of key duals and tournaments, and the state's most comprehensive coverage of district and state tournaments. Carnes also does his own photography, and has won numerous Nebraska Press Association awards for both sports writing and photography. He has been honored twice by the Nebraska Scholastic Coaches Association as an outstanding media representative.

Mike's promotion of the sport of wrestling does not stop with newspaper reporting. He has "Wrestling Wednesday" on his sports talk show. The entire show is about wrestling, with interviews and discussions with area coaches. He is working on a syndicated wrestling radio program that, he hopes, will be embraced by the state's wrestling community.

Carnes' writing style and passion for the sport meet all the criteria for *Wrestling USA's* annual sportswriter award. His passion can best be described by using a quote from his own works....."I want to be able to spread the word about how great this sport is and how much the average sports fan is missing. Man has been wrestling a lot longer



than he has been playing basketball, after all. Centuries of athletes can't be wrong, can they?"

From print to radio, Nebraska knows it has a solid wrestling supporter in Michael Carnes. He was nominated by Todd Kiplinger, wrestling coach at Pierce High School.

Wrestling USA Magazine congratulates Mike for a job well done!

**SPORTSWRITER OF THE YEAR
 Runner-up
 James "Jake" Schaller**
Montgomery Journal
 Rockville, MD
 Nominated by John Horwat

